

# MOPSY

SERENDIPITOUS SHOPPING: OUR  
UNFETTERED CORRESPONDENT SEEKS  
OUT THE SALUBRIOUS AND THE CEREBRAL.

BY MOPSY STRANGE KENNEDY

## LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARING DONATIONS

Cambridge-based Elevate Destinations is a "socially conscious" travel company specializing in high-end customized trips that also raise money for local nonprofits. Call 617-661-0203 or go to [www.elevatedestinations.com](http://www.elevatedestinations.com).



particularities that other trips do not: custom-designed forays that get inside local cultures, access via camel to tribes with unique customs and ceremonies, hiking, polo matches, contact with European settlers and urban Africans, and of course, wild wildlife. Lodgings may include a palace or a gorgeously tall tent (not the usual croucher), and voyagers report pleasant surprise at the wonderful food. Transport can consist of the three H's—helicopters, hot air balloons and horses—to reach out-of-the-way spots. In India, a 12-day spiritual retreat takes place in a remote palace. Everywhere, the beauty is dazzling.

As Toby Fenwick-Wilson, director of travel and deeply adventuresome guide, says of this company, "We design safaris of a specific character and flavor to match our guests' wishes." Those guests—family groups, month-long honeymooning couples, or other kindred crews—come from the higher echelons of taste, resources, elegance and education. These tourists are willing to part with their dollars in the name of fun, but they are also interested in "giving back," so Dominique Callimanopulos, founder of Elevate Destinations, donates 5 percent of each trip's profits to local charities. These voyages to East and South Africa and India offer